

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were presented for examination. Claims 5, 12, 14-15, 20, 27 and 29-30 were rejected. Applicants are hereby amending claims 5, 12, 14-15, 20, 27 and 29-30. Support for all amendments is found in the specification as originally filed. Reconsideration of this application as amended, and allowance of all pending claims are hereby respectfully requested.

Corrected Filing Receipt

As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully request the assistance of the Examiner in obtaining a Corrected Filing Receipt for this application. Attached for the Examiner's convenience is a copy of the Decision that granted the Applicants' Renewed Petition to accord the present application a correct filing date of July 10, 2003. To date, however, the Applicants have not received a Corrected Filing Receipt that reflects the correct filing date.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully request the assistance of the Examiner in ensuring that the drawing sheet including FIGS. 34D and 34E, which was the subject of the filing date petition, is properly included in the application file for reproduction in the issued patent.

Information Disclosure Statement Filed 12/19/2003

Applicants received a signed and initialed copy of the Form 1449 filed on December 19, 2003 together with the present Office Action. On sheets 1 and 2 of the Form 1449, however, the Examiner did not clearly indicate consideration of some of the "Other Art" due to a typographical error in which the box for the Examiner's initials was improperly drawn. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify the record in this regard and provide an updated copy of this Form 1449 with the next communication.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that indication that claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, 16-19, 21-26 and 28 are allowed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5, 12, 14-15, 20, 27 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for insufficient antecedent basis. These claims have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns and to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Application No.: 10/616,303

Respectfully submitted,

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